# GLOSSARY[1]

**Average Number of Overflow Events Per Year**—The total number of combined sewer overflow events that occurred during the term of the permit divided by the permit term in years.

**Combined Sewer Overflow**—The discharge from a combined sewer system to a receiving water of the United States prior to reaching the publicly owned treatment works treatment plant.

**Combined Sewer Overflow Event**—The discharges from any number of points in the combined sewer system resulting from a single wet weather event that do not receive minimum treatment (i.e., primary clarification, solids disposal, and disinfection, where appropriate). For example, if a storm occurs that results in untreated overflows from 50 different CSO outfalls within the CSS, this is considered *one* overflow event.

**Combined Sewer System**—A wastewater collection system owned by a State or one or more municipalities (as defined by Section 502(4) of the Clean Water Act) which conveys sanitary wastewaters (domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewaters) and storm water through a single-pipe system to a publicly owned treatment works treatment plant (as defined in 40 CFR 403.3(p)).

**Dry Weather Flow Conditions**—Hydraulic flow conditions within the combined sewer system resulting from one or more of the following: flows of domestic sewage, ground water infiltration, commercial and industrial wastewaters, and any other non-precipitation event related flows (e.g., tidal infiltration under certain circumstances). Other non-precipitation event related flows that are included in dry weather flow conditions will be decided by the permit writer based on site-specific conditions.

**Dry Weather Overflow**—A combined sewer overflow that occurs during dry weather flow conditions.

**Precipitation Event**—An occurrence of rain, snow, sleet, hail, or other form of precipitation. Precipitation events are generally characterized by parameters of duration and intensity (inches or millimeters per unit of time). This definition will be highly site-specific. For example, a precipitation event could be defined as 0.25 inches or more of precipitation in the form of rain or 3 inches or more of precipitation in the form of sleet or snow, reported during the preceding 24-hour period at a specific gaging station. A precipitation event could also be defined by a minimum time interval between measurable amounts of precipitation (e.g., 6 hours between the end of rainfall and the beginning of the next rainfall).

**Primary Clarification or Equivalent**—The level of treatment that would typically be provided by one or more treatment technologies under peak wet weather flow conditions. Options for

[1]These definitions were developed solely for the purposes of this guidance document.

defining primary clarification include a design standard (e.g., side wall depth and maximum overflow rate), a performance standard (e.g., percent removal), or an effluent standard (e.g., concentration of pollutants). "Equivalent to primary clarification" is site-specific and includes any single technology or combination of technologies shown by the permittee to achieve primary clarification under the presumption approach. The permittee is responsible for showing equivalency to primary treatment as part of the evaluation of CSO control alternatives during LTCP development. Primary clarification is discussed in more detail in the *Combined Sewer Overflows–Guidance for Long-Term Control Plan* (EPA, 1995a).

**Sensitive Areas**—Areas of particular environmental significance or sensitivity that could be adversely affected by a combined sewer overflow, including Outstanding National Resource Waters, National Marine Sanctuaries, water with threatened or endangered species, waters with primary contact recreation, public drinking water intakes, shellfish beds, and other areas identified by the permittee or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting authority, in coordination with the appropriate State or Federal agencies.

**Solid and Floatable Materials**—Solid or semi-solid materials should be defined on a case-by-case basis determined by the control technologies proposed by the permittee to control these materials. The term generally includes materials that might impair the aesthetics of the receiving water body.

**Wet Weather Flow Conditions**—Hydraulic flow conditions within the combined sewer system resulting from a precipitation event. Since the definition of precipitation event is site-specific, the permit writer should evaluate and define certain site-specific weather conditions that typically contribute to wet weather flow. EPA encourages permit writers to include snowmelt as a condition that typically contributes to wet weather flow.

## REFERENCES


U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 1995a. *Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Long-Term Control Plan* (EPA 832-B-95-002).

EPA. 1995b. *Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Nine Minimum Controls* (EPA 832-B-95-003).

EPA. 1995c. *Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Screening and Ranking* (EPA 832-B-95-004).

EPA. 1995d. *Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Monitoring and Modeling* (EPA 832-B-95-005).

EPA. 1995e. *Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment* (EPA 832-B-95-006).

EPA. 1995f. *Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Funding Options* (EPA 832-B-95-007).

EPA. 1995g. *Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Permit Writers* (EPA 832-B-95-008).

EPA. 1995h. *Combined Sewer Overflows—Questions and Answers on Water Quality Standards and the CSO Program* (EPA 832-B-95-009).

EPA. 1993. *Training Manual for NPDES Permit Writers*. (EPA 833-B-93-003).

EPA. 1991. *Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control*. (EPA/505/2-90-001), PB91-127415.